

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

**ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**

12 DECEMBER 1963

~~TOP SECRET~~



LATE ITEM

Bolivia

a. Press reports this morning that the government has ruled out the use of armed force and is withdrawing troops are misleading.

b. We think they are probably based on the fact that the government has ceased sending patrols close to the mines in order not to provoke the miners into an armed clash while "negotiations" continue.

c. Paz, who a few days ago thought Lechin was in a dilemma, now admits to being in one himself.

d. He says if he bows to the demands of Lechin and the miners, he will suffer serious political defeat. On the other hand, if he risks a direct attack on the mining area, it might well mean the death of the hostages.

e. The President seems to feel he must eventually attack in force. His minister of government thinks that if Paz does not act vigorously during the next few days he will lose mass support.

(Cont'd)

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g. As far as we know, the government's ultimatum to the miners to release the hostages by mid-day tomorrow or face the use of military force still stands.

h. There may be demonstrations favoring Lechin in La Paz today.

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1. USSR

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2. Kenya

a. The country becomes independent today.

b. In the two years since the British released Prime Minister Kenyatta from detention, he has become an effective political leader. But he will have a tough job keeping diverse tribal and racial antagonisms from boiling over.

(Cont'd)

c. The most pressing security problem facing the new government is the status of the Somali-inhabited Northeastern Region, an isolated, semidesert area claimed by the Somali Republic.

d. Kenyatta takes a neutralist line toward international affairs.

3. Czechoslovakia

a. It seems fairly obvious that something is amiss in the Czechoslovak regime

[REDACTED]

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b. Our best guess is that Moscow is concerned over Czech leader Novotny's inability to keep his house in order and is trying to get things back on the right track.

c. The party leader has been dragging his feet on de-Stalinization.

[REDACTED] liberal elements in the party will be satisfied only with Novotny's ouster, and it may come to that.

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(Cont'd)

d. The country has been faced with serious economic problems which have contributed to popular dissatisfaction. Moscow may be upset over Czechoslovakia's inability or unwillingness to meet its economic commitments to the bloc.

e. If Novotny has to go, the only bloc leader likely to be sorry is Walter Ulbricht, who might read Novotny's departure as the handwriting on the wall.

4. Congo

a. The exiles across the river in Brazzaville continue plotting against the Leopoldville government.

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c. Embassy Leopoldville is worried about the danger of Tshombé's possible return to the Congo to the detriment of US policies and interests, perhaps with Belgian encouragement. It sees no obstacle in the way of Tshombé's cooperation with opposition elements in Brazzaville.

5. Dominican Republic

a. The outlook for the internal political situation is still far from bright.

b. Several moderate leaders, favoring a return to constitutional government, have already concluded that growing far right influence among the armed forces, cabinet and wealthy class will prevent the regime from conducting an impartial election.

c. There are also signs that the conservative parties participating in the new administration will cooperate in this direction.

d. If fears of rightist dominance continue to grow, the scattered antigovernment guerrillas now in the mountains might well be reinforced by substantial numbers of new recruits from normally democratic elements.

6. Cambodia

a. The government has issued a communiqué stating that the department of information never alluded to the death of President Kennedy in crowing over Marshal Sarit's demise.

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b. Nevertheless the communiqué manages to get in a nasty swipe at the US. It concludes that "Cambodia has no lesson of decency to learn from the so called civilized countries where racial discrimination periodically gives rise to manifestations of violence."

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NOTES

A.

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- B. Italy The press reports pro-Communist leaders of the minority wing of Italy's Socialist Party walked out of a meeting last night to protest the party's participation in Premier Moro's center-left government.

C.

[Redacted]

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- D. USSR-Iran Moscow has made an unusual gesture in agreeing to pay half the damages resulting from its shoot-down of an Iranian plane in the border area recently. The USSR contends

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that the plane was in Soviet territory.

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DOCUMENT OF INTEREST

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